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STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

RECOGNITION OF EAST TIMOR AS AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATE BY THE HUTT RIVER PROVINCE PRINCIPALITY

- Whereas on November 1975 East Timor, formerly a Portuguese colony, became an independent State;

- Whereas the invasion and the occupation of East Timor by Indonesia have never been recognized by the international community ;

- Whereas the people of East Timor have expressed by a free vote their overwhelming determination to become an independent nation ;

The Government of the Hutt River Province Principality,

- considering the principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the sovereign equality of States and the maintenance of international peace and security,

- gravely concerned at the loss of life and conscious of the urgent need to avoid further bloodshed in East Timor,

hereby :

- recognizes East Timor as an independent and sovereiogn State and its right to normal international standing and participation according to international law ;

- calls upon all States to respect the territorial integrity of East Timor as well as the inalienable right of its people to indepence in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

- calls upon the Government of Indonesia to withdraw without delay all its forces from the Territory;

- calls upon the Government of Portugal to co-operate fully with the United Nations so as to enable the people of East Timor to exercise freely their right to independence;

- urges all States and other parties concerned to co-operate fully with the efforts of the United Nations to achieve a peaceful solution to the existing situation .

(12 September 1999)

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